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09/11/2012 Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, September 11, 2012 @ 7:00 PM
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, September 11, 2012.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Don Vitters, and Jen Rothenberg. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Alex Hoffinger, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Jennifer Susse, William Turville and Henry Brush.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

Open Forum – Public Comments

N/A

Waldo Woodcarving Proposal

Mr. Hoffinger introduced the woodcarving proposal to the Commission. Mr. Hoffinger reviewed the subcommittee process and the carving design to date. The Commission reviewed the preliminary plan and made comment. Mr. Turville gave details regarding the actual material to be used and how the work would be carried out. Ms. Mayer expressed her concern over the use of metal for the nest.

Mr. Turville and the Commission discussed the importance of establishing a long-term maintenance plan.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the preliminary proposal with the condition that the group return to the Commission for final approval upon the design and material details being finalized. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0.

Ms. Curiel asked if Mr. Connelly could draft a letter of preliminary approval to assist with possible grant applications.

Toys at Magnolia Playground Review

Mr. Connelly reviewed the concerns from an abutter about the Magnolia Playground regarding the quantity of toys and placement of toys in the park. Mr. Connelly reviewed his concern regarding the safety issue with these portable toys being under necessary fall zones. The Commission discussed the need for a Friends of Magnolia Park liaison to be responsible for making sure the toys are put away and checked out for appropriateness. The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to draft correspondence with the Friends of Magnolia to share the Commission's concerns.

Capital Improvement Update

Poets Corner Master Plan – On hold.

Menotomy Pond Step replacement – Mr. Connelly stated that the project is complete.

Spy Pond Pathway – Heimlich did pathway modifications, but seem to have missed a section. This will be verified. The trash can receptacle should be moved. The area received heavy damage from the micro burst. Mr. Connelly will get a price to repair the issue.

Rink Phase 3 – Mr. Connelly stated the project was complete and that the new Zamboni was being bid out within the month. Mr. Vitters asked about the new street sign. Mr. Connelly stated that the project is ready to go and he is just waiting for word from the sign company to begin.

Peirce School Playground Wall – Mr. Connelly stated that work has been completed.

Capital Request for FY 2014 – The Commission discussed the following requests:

~	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Location	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
~	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
Hibbert Street	\$288,750		~	~	~	~			~
Hurd Field	~	~	~	~				\$385,000	\$385,000
North Union	\$197,500		~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Poets Corner	~	~	~	~			\$574,200	~	~
Reservoir	~	~			\$630,000		~	~	~
Robbins Farm	~		\$506,000			~	~	~	~
Spy Pond Tennis		\$467,500	~		~	~	~	~	~
Summer Street	\$55,000		~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Turkey Hill	~	~		~	~			~	\$78,750
Wellington Playground & Clean-up	~			\$429,000	~	~	~	~	~
Bishop Playground	~					\$236,500	~		~
Magnolia Field Basketball Court	~	\$75,000			~	~	~	~	~
ADA Study	\$30,000	\$30,000							
Feasibility Study	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Subtotal CDBG Parks	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Town Parks-CDBG	\$571,250	\$572,500	\$516,000	\$439,000	\$640,000	\$166,500	\$584,200	\$395,000	\$473,750
Total w/o CDBG	\$571,250	\$572,500	\$516,000	\$439,000	\$640,000	\$246,500	\$584,200	\$395,000	\$473,750

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the following requests, seconded by Ms. Rothenbeg and approved 4-0.

Off Leash Dog Review Review

Mr. Connelly and Mr. Leonard reviewed some design options for the tree area. The Commission discussed using the same stone paving system that we used in the parking lot. Mr. Leonard recommended using a more rigid stone along the tree that would still provide protection for the tree and drainage but would not encourage canine traffic.

The Commission and Mr. Leonard discussed placing edging along the pathway. Mr. Leonard did not think it was necessary. Ms. Mayer stated her concerns that edging was not being added. Mr. Connelly expressed his funding concerns but would look at potential funding options.

Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer also reviewed the issue of leaving toys in the Park. Mr. Connelly explained the current practice of letting them stay there for a couple of days and then disposing of them. The Commission agreed with this approach.

The Commission discussed the potential of having a by-law for leashed dogs on fenced youth baseball/softball fields. Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer were concerned that this would open up discussions for leashed dogs on all park property not just fenced 60' baseball fields. The Commission discussed the issues at McClellan Field. Ms. Mayer stated the issues are with un-leashed dogs and we already have a by-law for that. The Commission agreed and asked Mr. Connelly to share their feedback with DPW and Town Counsel.

The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to inquire with animal control how many tickets have been given for off-leash in the last year.

Special Requests

ASC Hurd Field Lights

Mr. Brush reviewed his request for use of Hurd Field lights for the Arlington Soccer Club. ASC requested Mon, Tues, Wed., Fri until 7:30 pm and then Thursday until 9 pm until October 31st. ASC will pay the cost of the lights and will pay Paul Fredericks to turn them on.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

Robbins Farm Picnic Tables

Mr. Connelly and Ms. Rothenberg discussed the request from the FoRFP to place additional picnic tables at the park. Ms. Rothenberg researched the style used and plan for additional tables as was in the original design. The Commission asked who would be installing the bench and wanted to make sure the locations were handicap accessible.

Mr. Connelly will touch base with the Friends and then have the Commission review the possible locations on site.

Parallel Park Star Gazing Event

Mr. Mayer and Mr. Connelly reviewed the stargazing event that was held on August 24th by Mr. Monju. The event was described as a simple stargazing event. In actuality it was a political fundraiser that would not have been allowed under normal circumstances.

Rink and Recreation Update – Budget Updates

Mr. Connelly stated reviewed the end of season budgets for the Reservoir and Kayak program. Mr. Connelly also provided a budget overview for the new Kid Care program. Mr. Connelly stated that he had requested a meeting with the Town Manager to establish maintenance funds for the rink and reservoir.

The Commission discussed various possible improvements to the res including a new entrance hut to collect tickets, new benches and more sand.

The Commission also discussed removing broken water fountains from our playgrounds.

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Picnic Policy – Special Events – *Tabled until October Meeting* **Committee Updates:**

Portable Restrooms – N/A

Friends of Parks – N/A

Skateboard Park – Mr. Connelly is having discussions with Town Administration to see if there are available funds to match a potential donor, so that upgrades can be done.

Mill Brook Linear Park – N/A

Other Business

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation